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PINE DUNES RESEARCH NATURAL AREA
MANAGEMENT PLAN

Bureau of Land Management
Susanville District
Eagle Lake Resource Area

Prepared by: Gary D. Schoolcraft Date: 4/30/87

Approved by: Mark T. Morse Date: 5-8-87
Area Manager

Approved by: C. Rex Cleary Date: 5/20/87
District Manager

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Form 6780-1
(July 1981)
(formerly 6620-1)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

CHECKLIST FOR PREPARATION AND REVIEW OF HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLANS

State California

District Susanville

Resource Area Eagle Lake

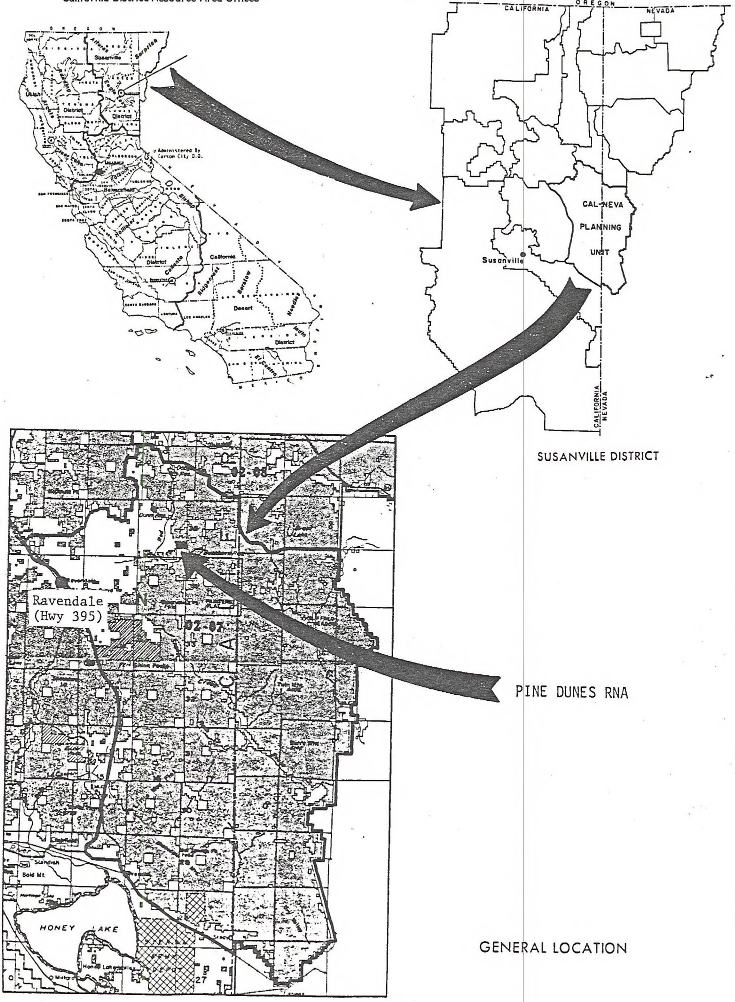
HMP Name and Number Pine Dunes RNA T-16

HMP Prepared by Gary D. Schoolcraft

REVIEW CHECKLIST	SURNAME	DATE
1. Master Memorandum of Understanding, Sikes Act Agreement and/or Supplemental with State Agency.	▨	na
2. Preliminary meeting(s) with State Agency *(or other appropriate cooperators)* to jointly discuss HMP objectives.	▨	na
3. Endangered Species Act Compliance completed by	G. Schoolcraft	2/10/87
4. Review by District/Resource Area Specialists		
Range		2/12/87
Wild Horse and Burro		2/12/87
Hydrologist		
Forestry	R. Elam	3/2/87
Fisheries/Botanist/~~Wildlife Biologist~~		2/19/87
Lands	J. Austin	3/9/87
Minerals		3/2/87
Recreation	S. J. Bales	2/27/87
Wilderness/ACEC	G. Schoolcraft	2/10/87
Cultural		
Visual		
Environmental Coordinator *(reviews EAs)*	Russ Elam	5/21/87
Support *(Chief of Operations/Fire Management)*	D. Orsburn	4/27/87
Others		
5. Reviewed by Area Manager	Walt T Moore	5-8-87
6. Reviewed by Chief of Resource Management	RA	4-30-87
7. Draft HMP and EA reviewed by State Agency authorized officer *(or other cooperators).*		
8. Final review *(if appropriate)* by State Director		
9. Reviewed and approved by District Manager	C. Rex Cleary	5/20/87
10. Approved by State Agency authorized officer		

Remarks

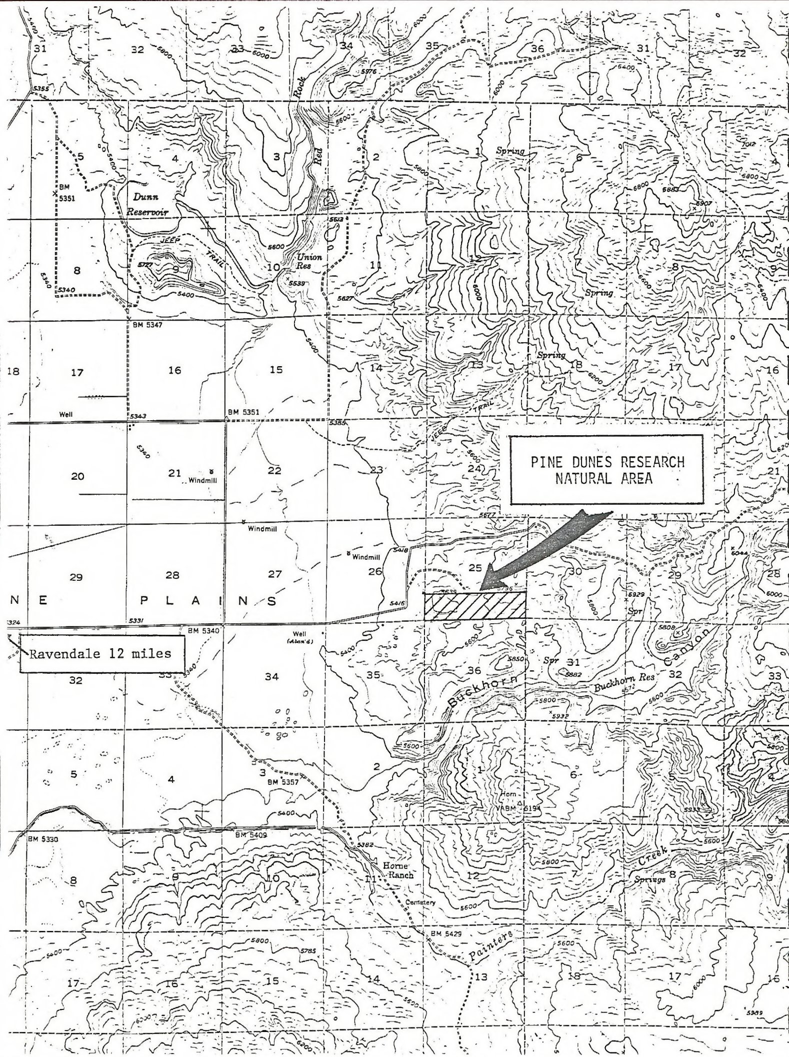
California District/Resource Area Offices



SUSANVILLE DISTRICT

CAL-NEVA PLANNING UNIT

GENERAL LOCATION


PINE DUNES RESEARCH NATURAL AREA

Ravendale 12 miles

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I. Purpose and Objectives

A. Purpose:

The Pine Dunes Research Natural Area Management Plan has been prepared to provide specific guidance for the management and protection of this 160 acre special area. The area is a unique isolated grove of less than 100 ponderosa pine trees in a small dune area within the Great Basin sagebrush community. There has been no reproduction within the grove for about 40 years. The sensitive nature of the area and lack of any reproduction initiated actions to protect this area.

B. Management Objectives:

The management objectives for the Pine Dunes Management Plan are to ensure that the trees and their habitat are protected, to ensure that the area is preserved in its natural state for research and education purposes, and to generate interest into scientific research of the area.

II. Summary of Major Recommendations

A. Protection Measures:

1. Attempt acquisition of privately owned lands supporting remainder of tree grove.
2. Close area to off highway vehicles and post signs.
3. Keep area fenced to exclude livestock and wild horses.
4. Collect cones and test seed viability.
5. Encourage research of area.
6. Do a complete plant inventory of the research natural area.
7. Complete an inventory record on all trees.
8. Close area to woodcutting and post signs.
9. Control disease and insect infestation.
10. Implement special fire protection and control methods.

B. Monitoring Resource Status:

1. Monitor condition of fence.
2. Monitor condition of trees by ocular reconnaissance.
3. Search area for any signs of reproduction of trees.
4. Reread individual tree inventory records.

III. Background and Resource Summary

A. Background:

The Pine Dunes have long drawn the interest of people recognizing the uniqueness of this site. An article about the area was published in the California Native Plant Society Newsletter in 1970 (Appendix 1), describing the unique aspects of the area. The area was also listed by the California Natural Areas Council in its Inventory of California Natural Areas as the "Migrating Sand Dunes" in 1976 (Appendix 2).

The primary interest of the area actually is a grove of relic ponderosa pines isolated within a small sand dune area. The Pine Dunes are located in Lassen County about 17 miles east of Ravendale, California in T.35N., R.16E., Section 25, S 1/2 S 1/2, MDM. The dune area which derived from an ancient lake bed is at the eastern edge of the Madeline Plains within the sagebrush community at this western edge of the Great Basin.

The Pine Dunes were identified in the Cal-Neva Planning Unit's Management Framework Plan (MFP) as an area needing special management with the recommendation that the area be designated as a natural area. On Thursday, April 24, 1986, 160 acres of public lands were designated by BLM in the Federal Register, Vol. 51, No. 79, Notices (See Appendix 3) as the Pine Dunes Research Natural Area to provide protection for this grove of pines.

The Cal-Neva Planning Unit MFP also recommended that the Pine Dunes area be closed to off highway vehicles (OHV's) and be fenced to exclude livestock and wild horse and burro grazing. The exclusion of livestock and fence were recommended and analyzed through the Cal-Neva Planning Unit Proposed Livestock Grazing Management Environmental Impact Statement. The fence was completed in November 1986.

B. Land Uses:

There are no notable uses within the Pine Dunes Area. Fencing has excluded livestock and wild horse and burro use that had occurred in the area. There are no mining claims in the area and there is little or no mineral potential.

C. Resource Summary:

1. Physical Profile

The dune area is about 1000 acres in size and was derived from wind blown sand from a dried up Pleistocene lake bed which is now Madeline Plains. The dunes are partially stabilized and probably have a maximum depth of about 200 feet. The surrounding area consists of gentle sloping Miocene volcanic basalt and Pliocene volcanic pyroclastics at elevations of 5400 to 5600 feet.

The average annual precipitation is around 10 inches, coming primarily in the winter months as snow. The coldest month is January with an average temperature of 21 F, and July the warmest month with an average temperature of 67 F.

2. Biological Profile

The dune area is located within the sagebrush steppe vegetation type (Barbour and Major, 1977), with scattered occurrences of western juniper (Juniperus occidentalis). The primary vegetation on the dunes surrounding the pines are curlleaf mountain mahogany (Cercocarpus ledifolius), antelope bitterbrush (Purshia tridentata), big sagebrush (Artemisia tridentata), rabbitbrushes (Chrysothamnus spp.), western juniper (Juniperus occidentalis), Indian ricegrass (Oryzopsis hymenoides), large desert evening primrose (Oenothera deltoides), large desert evening primrose (Oenothera deltoides), and larkspur (Delphinium sp.).

The pine grove occurs in two separate groups covering a total area of about 40 acres. The trees are estimated to be from about 40 years to 300 years old. There are 91 trees total with all but 24 occurring on public lands. The 24 on private occur on lands to the south in Section 36. The largest tree measures 57" dbh (diameter at breast height) and is about 100 feet tall. The smallest tree is about 4.5" dbh and approximately 40 years old. There is no evidence of recent reproduction. The lack of reproduction has been a concern and is the main reason the area has been fenced. Grazing of seedlings may have been a problem, but there is no evidence of that since no seedlings have been observed. There will still be the presence of deer and rodents in the area which could also be detrimental to seedlings.

The isolation of this grove is one of its unique features. The nearest individual pine is 15 miles to the north at 1000 feet higher elevation and the nearest forest is in the south Warner Mountains 20 miles north (Griffin, 1970 - see Appendix 1).

There are approximately 20 stumps of cut trees within the grove, the largest measuring 57 inches in diameter. The trees were probably cut about 30-50 years ago. There is no evidence of recent cutting in the area.

The largest tree of the grove, which stands alone on the far west edge of the RNA, has a snag top which supports a golden eagle's nest. The nest was last active in 1984.

The species of pine in the dune area has also been of some question. Needles and cones of 7 trees were sent to Bill Critchfield at U.C. Berkeley in 1979. All were verified as ponderosa pine (_Pinus ponderosa_) except one which he stated may have some Washoe pine (_Pinus washoensis_) in it. No further determinations have been done. Washoe pine is a pine of limited distribution, occurring from the south Warner Mountains south to Mount Rose, which is southwest of Reno, Nevada.

The area also supports an important wildlife specie. Located in the snag top of the largest pine tree on the west side of the area is a golden eagle's nest. The nest was last active in 1984. Deer, antelope, and wild horses are also present in the area. The other wildlife species of the area are typical of the sagebrush community.

IV. Use Philosophy

The primary intent of the designation is to protect the area and make it available for research and education purposes. Non-consumptive research will be allowed within

the area. There has been very little, if any camping or other recreational use in the area in the past.

Since there is little or no potential for mineral development and there are no active claims within the area, there is little concern over disturbance from mineral exploration. No material sales for sand will be allowed in the dune area.

Some hunting and sight seeing activity occur in the area and is not incompatible with this plan.

V. Planned Actions

A. Actions:

1. Goal: Include entire grove of ponderosa pines within the research natural area and under the jurisdiction of the BLM and this plan.

   Action: Acquire private lands to the south, T.35N., R.16E., Sec. 36, N 1/2 N 1/2, totalling 160 acres. Acquisition will be pursued first by land exchange or purchase. If acquisition is not possible, a conservation easement with the land owner will be pursued.

   Discussion: About 20 trees occur just off the RNA boundary to the south on private lands. Acquisition of this land would protect the integrity of the stand and also give a small buffer strip to the trees. The presence of these few trees outside the fence make them more susceptible to disturbance.

   Implementation: Land owner has already been contacted concerning this parcel as part of a larger land exchange. The exchange is in the preliminary stages. Once acquired, these lands will be designated part of the RNA and existing fence moved to include these lands.

2. Goal: Obtain natural reproduction of the pine trees within the grove.

Action: Close the area to OHV's and post closure signs on boundary fence. Keep boundary fence in good repair to exclude cattle from the area. Test the viability of the pine seeds.

Discussion: There has been no observed reproduction in the stand for at least 30 years. Livestock and wild horse and burro grazing were excluded in November 1986 with the completion of the RNA boundary fence. The area will be closed to OHV's as recommended in the planning documents. Since the reasons for no reproduction are unknown, actions will be pursued subject to information learned. The extirpation of the pines from this site may be a natural phenomena since this is a relic stand.

Implementation: Once the area is closed to OHV's, signs will be posted. Fence maintenance will be an on-going activity. Copies of this plan will be sent to universities in the area to encourage research on the site. Cones will be collected and tested for seed viability each year for a 5 year period.

3. Goal: Encourage scientific research by the academic community into the ecology and evolution of the area.

   Action: Distribute document to major California, Nevada and Oregon universities.

   Discussion: Very little information is known about the ecology or evolution of this area. Information gained in areas such as soil, climate, habitat requirements, reproduction requirements, hybridization, and evolution of the area would be valuable in preserving this unique area.

   Implementation: Distribute this document to universities upon completion. Obtain documentation of all research done on area and retain as reference material.

4. Goal: Provide an information base on the trees and vegetation on the site.

   Action: Do a complete plant list for the RNA. Establish an inventory record for each tree to include dbh, height, estimated age, average needle length, and cone size and description. Note any signs of disease or insect infestation.

Discussion: Basic vegetative resource information is needed to establish a monitoring point. Resource information will be available to organizations or individuals upon request. Information may assist in better understanding the ecology of the area.

Implementation: Information base will be initiated the first year and should be completed by year 2.

5. Goal: Protect the trees from uses that could be detrimental to the stand.

   Action: Allow no material(e.g. sand) sales within the area. Close the area to woodcutting and post "No Woodcutting" signs on boundary fence. Allow no camping or campfires within the RNA and post as such.

   Discussion: Although there have been no problems with the above activities, the public should be made aware that the area is special and uses possibly detrimental to the area will be eliminated.

   Implementation: These actions will be implemented the first year of the plan.

6. Goal: Control disease or insect infestation of the trees.

   Action: Any signs of disease or insect infestation will be handled expeditiously in the manner least disruptive to the trees. No trees will be cut unless it is necessary to the survival of the stand and no other means are available.

   Implementation: Investigation for any signs of disease or insect infestation will be part of the annual monitoring of the area. The control of the disease or insects will be by the most effective legal methods available.

7. Goal: Prevent and control fires that could destroy trees.

   Action: Thin out any dense mahogany stands within 100 feet of trees. Clear brush from base of trees. Use only helicopter bucket drops and hand lines within the boundary. No vehicles will be allowed within the area without Area Manager approval. Fire retardant drops will be used only when necessary to save the trees and with Area Manager approval. No chain saws will be used on the pine trees.

Implementation: The Fire Dispatch Center will be notified of the RNA and the need for special consideration and fire control methods within the area. The District Botanist will act as a resource advisor on fires threatening the RNA.

VI. Monitoring and Reporting

A. Monitoring:

The condition of the boundary fence will be inspected annually. Any observed disturbances or activities will be noted. Any discrepancies will be corrected immediately. The area will be searched thoroughly for the possible presence of any seedlings. If seedlings are found, their exact location and size should be noted. Seedlings should be covered with a protective mesh sleeve until well established. Trees will be investigated for any signs of disease or insects.

The Ocular Recon form (Appendix 5) will be filled out thoroughly on each annual visit and be kept as a record of inspection in a Pine Dunes RNA file.

The inventory record completed for each tree should be repeated every 5 years.

B. Reporting:

Annual summary reports will be prepared following each annual Ocular Recon visit. The report will: 1) detail current condition of the site; 2) reflect trends; 3) discuss probable and known causes of any change in resource condition; 4) evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed actions of this plan; and 5) recommend corrective actions where appropriate.

VII. Implementation

A. Responsibility:

The Eagle Lake Resource Area Botanist assisted by one Range Conservationist is primarily responsible for implementing this management plan in cooperation with other BLM staff. Joint responsibility is used to give some continuity to the implementation. Required monitoring and annual reports will be done jointly when possible.

B. Project List and Cost Estimates:

1. Land exchange for 160 acres of private lands. Publication costs: $500.00. Exchange, EA, and Appraisal: 3 1/2 work-months.

2. Posting of signs: Closed to OHV's, No Woodcutting, No Camping. Materials: $25.00. Estimated project time: 1 work-day.

3. Collect cones and test seed viability on at least 5 trees per year. Materials: $25.00. Estimated project time: 2 work-days per year for 5 years.

4. Establish an information base on vegetation and trees within RNA. Estimated project time: 2 work-weeks.

5. Monitor RNA annually and submit annual report to Area Manager. Estimated project time: 2 work-days per year.

APPENDIX 1

from California Native Plant Society Newsletter
Jan. 1970

SURPRISE ON THE MADELINE PLAINS

Several years ago I was interested in relic ponderosa pine colonies in the sagebrush country of northeastern California. At that time the Bureau of Land Management office at Susanville gave me several interesting leads. The most unlikely spot on their list was: the sand dunes at the eastern end of the Madeline Plains, Lassen County (to be exact Sections 25 and 36, T. 35 N., R. 16 E.).

In June, 1968 I finally visited this rather offbeat locality. You leave U. S. 395 at Ravendale and drive 17 miles east on a county road. The drab, treeless flat looks most unpromising as you start. Even the volcanic uplands around the Madeline basin hardly support "trees" As far as you can see, only scrubby *Juniperus occidentalis* poke above the sagebrush. After 10 miles, about the time the pavement ends, the hills at the end of plain become obvious. Partially stabilized dunes cover the foot of the slope. The sand apparently blew off of the Pleistocene lake bed that formed the plain. In the middle of the view, amid white patches of sand, are the promised dark green pines.

Plodding 400 yards up from the road brings you to the first tree. For an area that is lucky to get 10 to 15 inches of precipitation a year, it is an impressive specimen. The trunk is 57 inches in diameter. A huge eagle's nest crowns the snag top. Beyond this large, mature tree are several clusters of younger trees – perhaps 50 individuals in all. Some trees were logged long ago. I noticed 20 stumps. The tallest tree stood 90 feet in height. Most trees were 1 to 2 feet in diameter. All were healthy except some of the older trees had dead tops. I don't recall seeing any seedlings, but cones were abundant.

All of the trees seemed to be reasonable examples of the California form of *Pinus ponderosa.* No Jeffrey or Washoe pine characters were conspicuous. The closest individual ponderosa pine that I know about is 15 miles to the north and about 1,000 feet higher in elevation. The closest forest, which includes both ponderosa and Jeffrey pines, lies on the south Warner Mountains 20 miles north. Observation Peak, which rises to 7,964 feet just 7 miles south of the dunes, has no pines.

Shrub density is much less on the dunes than on the uncovered basalt. As you would expect in this region, *Cercocarpus ledifolius, Purshia tridentata, Artemisia tridentata, Ribes cereum,* and *Chrysothamnus* spp. are scattered about. Much of the ground is bare, and the area can hardly carry a fire. Consequently, some of the *Cercocarpus* "shrubs" in the swales are very old and large. *Juniperus occidentalis* is almost absent from the dunes although it is dominant in the adjacent vegetation. The few junipers appeared to be in shallow spots where the sand barely covers the underlying rock.

One seep within the dunes has a tiny green meadow on it. At the base of the dunes – near the road and the ruins of an old homestead – a large spring area supports a colony of *Populus tremuloides.*

Those who are looking for examples of how soil properties can compensate for adverse climate will find this a good spot. Those who are seeking sand-tolerant species should find something of interest also. For example, I stopped by the dunes again in July, 1969. Beautiful day-blooming evening-primroses – probably some form of *Oenothera deltoides* – were a striking feature at that time.

Much of the sandy area is managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Some of the pine colonies, however, appear to be on private land.

by James R. Griffin

APPENDIX 2

MIGRATING SAND DUNES 181352 BD

Sand dunes, relic pines

Lassen $40^{0}52'$ N $120^{0}06'$ W

Observation Peak 15' T35N R16E;R17E S 25;30,31

680 ha. (1,680 a.) 1,698-1,793 m. (5,572-5,882 ft.)

Bureau of Land Management; some private holdings

On the eastern edge of the Madeline Plains, which is the dried basin of a Pleistocene lake, is a series of dunes composed of fine sand, blown from the lake bed.

Of particular interest is the relic population of ponderosa pine, Pinus ponderosa, which is found here; the nearest population is some 24 kilometers (15 miles) north at an altitude of some 300 meters (1,000 feet) higher. There are several mature trees, one with a 145-centimeter (57-inch) diameter, as well as clumps of younger trees.

Much of the dune area is bare, though there are occasional clumps of mountain mahogany, Cercocarpus ledifolius, basin sagebrush, Artemisia tridentata, squaw currant, Ribes cereum, antelope bush, Purshia tridentata, and rabbit brush, Chrysothamnus sp.

In the swales, the Cercocarpus are very large and old. There is a seep within the dunes with a tiny meadow on it. A spring in the area supports a colony of quaking aspen, Populus tremuloides.

Wildlife, though not abundant, is typical of the Modoc Plateau area.

Integrity: Some of the pines have been logged. There is an old homestead in the area, as well as a road.

Use: Research, educational, observational. Some private.

July 1976

APPENDIX 3

with section 209(b)(1)(I) of Pub. L. 94–579, mineral interests, excepting geothermal steam and related resources, will be conveyed simultaneously with the surface estate upon submission of a non-refundable filing fee of $50.00.

The patent when issued will contain the following reservations to the United States:

1. A right-of-way thereon for ditches and canals constructed by the authority of the United States, under the Act of August 30, 1890, 26 Stat. 391; U.S.C. 945.

2. Geothermal steam and related resources shall be reserved to the United States, together with the right to prospect for and remove those resources. This parcel is affected by geothermal lease N–12085, Yankee Petroleum and Western States Geothermal.

And will be subject to:

1. Those rights for State Route 431 which have been granted to Nevada Department of Transportation, its successors or assigns, by right-of-way CC–018097 (400′).

2. Those rights for a powerline which have been granted to Sierra Pacific Power Company, its successors or assigns, by right-of-way Nev–06133 (40′).

The lands will not be offered for sale for at least 60 days after the date of this notice. For a period of 45 days from the date of publication of this notice in the Federal Register, interested parties may submit comments to the District Manager, Carson City District Office, Bureau of Land Management, 1535 Hot Springs Road, Suite 300, Carson City, Nevada 89701. Any adverse comments will be evaluated and this notice upheld, modified or vacated.

Dated this 16th day of April 1986.

Thomas J. Owen,

District Manager.

Copies of this Notice are being sent to the following parties:

Certified

Mr. John B. Walker, State Office of Community Services, 1100 E. William St., Suite 109, Carson City, Nevada 89710

Nevada Department of Transportation, Right-of-Way Department, 1263 South Stewart Street, Carson City, Nevada 89712

Western States Geothermal Corp., 655 East 4500 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84107

Yankee Petroleum, P.O. Box 1566, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74101

Washoe County Commissioners, P.O. Box 11130, Reno, Nevada 89504

Sierra Pacific Power Company, P.O. Box 10100, Reno, Nevada 89520

Non-Certified

The Honorable Paul Laxalt, U.S. Senate, 300 Booth Street, Federal Building, Room 2016, Reno, Nevada 89509

The Honorable Barbara Vucanovich, House of Representatives, 300 Booth Street, Federal Building, Room 1130, Reno, Nevada 89509

The Honorable Chic Hecht, U.S. Senate, 300 Booth Street, Federal Building, Room 2014, Reno, Nevada 89509

Mr. Edward F. Spang, State Director, Nevada, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada State Office, 300 Booth Street, Reno, Nevada 89520.

A copy of this Notice of Realty Action will be published in the Federal Register and published weekly for 3 consecutive weeks in the Reno Gazette-Journal, Reno, Nevada, and the Nevada Appeal, Carson City, Nevada.

[FR Doc. 86–9225 Filed 4–23–86; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–HC–M

Eagle Lake Resource Area Office; Designation of Pines Dunes Research Natural Area (RNA)

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of designation of Pines Dunes Research Natural Area (RNA).

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authority in 43 CFR 8223, the following lands are designated as a Research Natural Area (RNA).

Mt. Diablo Meridian; Lassen County, California.

T. 35 N., R. 16 E.,
Sec. 25, S½S½.

These lands, designated the Pine Dunes RNA, total 160 acres of BLM administered lands.

This designation is being made to provide protection for a unique isolated stand of pine trees. The area will be preserved for research and education purposes and the continued existence of the trees and their habitat.

A more detailed description of the resource values and special management attention required to protect these values are included in the Cal-Neva Management Framework Plan (MFP) for the Eagle Lake Resource Area. This area and management criteria were developed through the planning process (43 CFR 1610) which included three stages of public participation.

DATES: The designation of the Pine Dunes Research Natural Area (RNA) is effective upon publication of this notice.

ADDRESSES: For further information regarding the Management Framework Plan and the Pine Dunes RNA contact: Mark T. Morse, Area Manager, Eagle Lake Resource Area, 2545 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA 96130.

Dated: April 16, 1986.

Mark T. Morse,

Area Manager.

[FR Doc. 86–9153 Filed 4–23–86; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–40–M

Colorado; Filing of Plats of Survey

April 16, 1986.

The plat of survey of the following described land, will be officially filed in the Colorado State Office, Bureau of Land Management, Denver, Colorado, effective 10:00 A.M., April 16, 1986.

The plat representing the corrective survey of a portion of the subdivision of section 28, R. 37 S., R. 2 E., New Mexico Principal Meridian, Colorado, Group No. 774, was accepted April 2, 1986.

This survey was executed to meet certain administrative needs of the U.S. Forest Service.

All inquiries about this land should be sent to the Colorado State Office, Bureau of Land Management, 2020 Arapahoe Street, Denver, Colorado 80205.

Marlin G. Livermore II,

Acting Chief Cadastral Surveyor for Colorado.

[FR Doc. 86–9154 Filed 4–23–86; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–84–M

[Nev–054560]

Proposed Continuation of Withdrawal; Nevada

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Reclamation proposes that a 8,480-acre withdrawal for the Humboldt Project continue for an additional 50 years. The lands will remain closed to surface entry and mining but have been and will remain open to mineral leasing.

DATE: Comments should be received by July 23, 1986.

ADDRESS: Comments should be sent to: Chief, Branch of Lands and Minerals Operations, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada State Office, P.O. Box 12000, Reno, Nevada 89520.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Vienna Wolder, Nevada State Office, (702) 784–5481.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Bureau of Reclamation proposes that the existing land withdrawal made by the Secretarial Order of March 16, 1934, be

APPENDIX 4

OCULAR RECON REPORT
PINE DUNES RNA

Observer: ______________________________ Date: ____________________

Fence: ☐ up ☐ down, number of Sections down: ________.

Total feet down: ________.
Reason fence was down: ____
Comments: ____

Signs:
No Woodcutting ☐ ok ☐ replace
No Camping or Campfires ☐ ok ☐ replace
Closed OHV's ☐ ok ☐ replace

Tree Seedlings Present: ☐ no ☐ yes

Number observed: ____
height: ____
location (include maps): ____________________________________

Observed Disturbance: ☐ no ☐ yes

Type: ____
Extent: ____
Comments: ____

Vegetative Condition:

Abundance of Flowers or Fruit.

grasses: ☐ abundant ☐ moderate ☐ sparse ☐ none
forbs: ☐ abundant ☐ moderate ☐ sparse ☐ none
shrubs: ☐ abundant ☐ moderate ☐ sparse ☐ none
pines: ☐ abundant ☐ moderate ☐ sparse ☐ none

Grazing Use:

shrubs: ☐ heavy ☐ moderate ☐ light ☐ none
grasses: ☐ heavy ☐ moderate ☐ light ☐ none
forbs: ☐ heavy ☐ moderate ☐ light ☐ none

Pine Tree Condition:

Insects observed: ☐ no ☐ yes Type: ____________________________
Disease observed: ☐ no ☐ yes Type: ____________________________
Brush removal need: ☐ no ☐ yes Type: ____________________________

APPENDIX 5

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO   SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

1868

MUSEUM OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY
HASTINGS NATURAL HISTORY RESERVATION

STAR ROUTE BOX NO. 80
CARMEL VALLEY, CALIFORNIA 93924

May 5, 1987

Gary D. Schoolcraft
Bureau of Land Management
Eagle Lake Resource Area
2545 Riverside Drive
Susanville, CA 96130

Dear Mr. Schoolcraft:

I was delighted to receive your draft of the Pine Dunes RNA Management Plan. I was greatly impressed with the ecological and genetic values of the area when I vivited it in the 1960's. My natural area experience since then with the US Forest Service, BLM, and the University of California only strengthens my views on the high natural area value of the Pine Dunes. If I lived closer, I would very likely initiate some long-term studies on the area.

I have no significant editorial or ecological comments on the draft. There is a typo in "eastern" in the second paragraph of the Background section.

Since first seeing this small pine gove on dunes on the Madeline Plain, I have learned of a much larger version of this type of landscape in central Oregon -- called the "Lost Forest" I think. I can not find any reference to the Lost Forest at the moment. My impression was that I learned of the stand from an Oregon State University dissertation. (Perhaps I have already mentioned this to you or someone else in your office)

My strong recommendation is to have the plan approved and get on with implementing the management goals.

Sincerely yours,

Jim Griffin

James R. Griffin
Research Ecologist

I would like to keep the draft for my general information JRG

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—THE RESOURCES AGENCY
GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, *Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
1416 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814
(916) 322-2446

EAGLE LAKE OFFICE
RECEIVED
JUN 8 1987
BUREAU OF LAND
MANAGEMENT
SUSANVILLE, CALIFORNIA

June 3, 1987

Mr. Gary Schoolcraft
BLM - Susanville District
705 Hall Street
Susanville, CA 96130

Dear Gary:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Pine Dunes Research Natural Area Management Plan. As I mentioned in our recent phone conversation, I only have two minor comments regarding the Plan.

On page 2 of the Plan, the area is identified as being listed by "the State of California in its 'Candidate or Potential Natural Areas' program" in the 1970's. I'm not aware of any such program which was a part of the state government during that time. The appendix cited as a source for this information is taken from the California Natural Areas Coordinating Council's "Inventory of California Natural Areas." This Council, a non-profit corporation founded in 1969, has apparently been mistaken as having been a part of the state government, which it is not.

The second comment regards Planned Action #1 on page 5 pertaining to acquisition of private lands. If acquisition is pursued by exchange of BLM lands, our program would appreciate being notified of which BLM holdings might be exchanged. This would give us an opportunity to comment on the potential impacts of such an exchange on rare species and natural communities.

Overall the plan was well-written and it appears to address all of our concerns related to natural diversity. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Marc

Marc Hoshovsky
Research Assistant
Lands and Natural Areas Project
Nongame-Heritage Program

MCH:pm

REFERENCES

Barbour, Micahel G., Jack Major. 1977. Terrestrial Vegetation of California. Wiley-Interscience, New York.

Griffin, James R. January 1970. California Native Plant Society Newsletter. Berkeley, California.

California Natural Areas Coordinating council. 1975. Inventory of California Natural Areas Vol. I. Sonoma, California

Form 6780–2
(July 1981)
(formerly 6620–3)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

OBJECTIVES	DATE COMPLETED	PLANNED ACTIONS	DATE COMPLETED	EVALUATION/MONITORING	DATE COMPLETED
Goal 1: Include all of tree stand in RNA		Acquire 160 acres of private land to south. T.35N., R.16E., Sec. 36 N½N½		Will continue negotiation to acquire control of remaining trees - through conservation easements or whatever means are available.	
		Publish addition to RNA in Federal Register.			
		Move fence to include acquired property		Check condition of fence annually.	
Goal 2: Obtain natural reproduction		Close area to OHV's and post closure signs on fence.		Condition of signs and fence will be monitored annually.	
		Collect cones and test viability of seeds.		Collect and test annually for 5 years.	
Goal 3: Encourage research on the RNA		Send RNA plan to universities to encourage research on ecology and evolution of area.		Will be sent in initial mailing.	
				Obtain documentation of any research done on area.	

INSTRUCTIONS

1. List specific HMP objectives as developed from RMP/MFP planning documents or as otherwise approved.
2. List specific planned actions to be initiated to meet each specific objective.
3. List scheduled evaluation/monitoring study(s) planned to evaluate accomplishments.
4. Enter completion date for each objective, action, or evaluation/monitoring study as accomplished.

GPO 841–060

Form 6780–2
(July 1981)
(formerly 6620–3)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

OBJECTIVES	DATE COMPLETED	PLANNED ACTIONS	DATE COMPLETED	EVALUATION/MONITORING	DATE COMPLETED
Goal 4: Provide a vegetative data base on RNA		Do a complete plant list for the RNA.		Should be completed by year 2.	
		Do a complete inventory record for each tree.		Repeat inventory record every 5 years.	
Goal 5: Protect trees		Close area to woodcutting and post signs.		Condition of signs checked in annual recon report.	
		Close area to camping and campfires and post as such.			
Goal 6: Control disease and insects		Any diseases or insects detrimental to trees will be controlled immediately.		Trees will be inspected for signs of disease or insect infestation annually.	
Goal 7: Prevent and control fires		Thin and clear brush around trees.		Monitor fire hazards during 5 year inventory of trees.	
		Notify fire dispatch of special control methods needed.		Check periodically to insure fire personnel are aware of the special control methods for area.	

INSTRUCTIONS

1. List specific HMP objectives as developed from RMP/MFP planning documents or as otherwise approved.
2. List specific planned actions to be initiated to meet each specific objective.
3. List scheduled evaluation/monitoring study(s) planned to evaluate accomplishments.
4. Enter completion date for each objective, action, or evaluation/monitoring study as accomplished.

GPO 841–060

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

FACE SHEET

EA Title Pine Dunes Research Natural Area

EA Number CA-026-87-07 Project Number

Team Leader/Lead Writer Gary Schoolcraft (Name) Botanist (Title)

Preparing Office Eagle Lake Resource Area

Contributing Staff (During a management screening session, the following resource specialists were designated as team members for this EA. This team then participated in an interdisciplinary scoping process to identify issues, develop alternatives, and assess impacts. Only those issues determined by the team to be important are discussed in this EA.)

Name	Resource Specialty

Signatures

Team Leader/Lead Writer Gary W. Schoolcraft Date 4/20/87

Environmental Coordinator Date 4/22/87

Area Manager Mark T. Morse Date 5-8-87

District Manager C. Rex Cleary Date 5/20/87

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1792

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
EAGLE LAKE RESOURCE AREA
2545 Riverside Drive
Susanville, California 96130

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
CA-026-87-07

Pine Dunes Research Natural Area Management Plan

I. INTRODUCTION

The Pine Dunes Research Natural Area is a 160 acre parcel of public lands designated to provide protection for a unique grove of ponderosa pines and make the area available for research and educational purposes. The area is located in eastern Lassen County, T.35N, R.16E, Section 25, S1/2S1/2, MDM, about 17 miles east of Ravendale, California. This plan was written to guide the use of the area and provide an implementation plan for the actions needed to help protect the area and its unique resource. A more complete description of the area appears in Section III of the Management Plan.

II. DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

A. Proposed Action

The proposed action is to implement a management plan for the Pine Dunes Research Natural Area.

Summary of Proposed Action

1. Acquire at least 160 acres of private lands to south of RNA, designate part of RNA, and fence.
2. Close RNA to vehicles and post closure signs.
3. Collect cones and test seed viability.
4. Distribute RNA Management Plan to academic community.

5. Develop a complete plant species list for the RNA.

6. Establish an inventory record for each tree.

7. Close area to vegetative and mineral material sales and woodcutting and post signs as such.

8. Close area to camping and campfires and post as such.

9. Remove approximately 1 acre of dense brush in the vicinity of the trees.

10. Notify the Fire Dispatch Center of the modified suppression techniques needed for the RNA.

A more thorough description of the planned actions appear in Section V. of the Management Plan.

B. No Action

Under this alternative, no management plan would be implemented.

III. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

A. Vegetation

A description of the vegetation of the area appears in the Resource Summary portion of Section III. of the Management Plan.

B. Wildlife

Golden eagles occur in the area and have nested in the large snag topped pine at the west edge of the area. The nest is in good shape and was last active in 1983 and 1984. Limiting brush removal to periods when nest would be inactive, August through January, will eliminate possible disturbance to the eagles. The area is within yearlong mule deer and pronghorn antelope use areas. Wild horses are also present in the vicinity of the RNA.

The remaining wildlife of the area consists of typical sagebrush community type species.

C. Minerals

The area has very low mineral potential. There are no mining claims within or near the RNA. Sand is the only known mineral material present.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Impacts of the Alternatives

1. Proposed Action

The overall impacts from implementation of the Pine Dunes Management Plan are minimal. Acquisition of the private lands will be beneficial to the area. Analysis of this action, if through a land exchange, will be handled as a separate document, to analyze impacts from lands exchanged out of Federal ownership.

Closure of the area to vehicles will have minimal impact. There has been little to no use of off highway vehicles in the area or the surrounding area in the past. Although the amount of remaining dune type area is small, the remaining surrounding area is open to off highway vehicles.

Closure of the area to material sales has minimal impact since sufficient other resources are available. Demand in this area is very low due to the sparse population and other sites are available for both sand and firewood close to larger communities.

The use of the area for recreational purposes other than sightseeing is negligible. Closure of area will have minimal if any impact.

Removal of vegetation around trees will destroy that vegetation and could be disruptive to wildlife in the area during actual removal. Impacts to both vegetation and wildlife will be short term and minimal in nature.

The limitations on fire suppression in the area will have some impact on suppression of fires in the research natural area. Due to the small size of the area, sparse vegetation between shrubs, and a major road on the north, this impact will be minimal.

2. No Action

Not implementing this plan will increase the possibility of damage or destruction of this unique resource since there would be no restrictions on uses of the area. Any increase of population of the area would increase the potential for impacts to the area.

B. Mitigation

The only mitigations are included under standard operating measures which restricts brush removal to periods when the golden eagle's nest is inactive.

V. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Copies of the Draft Pine Dunes Research Natural Area Management Plan were sent to the following organizations or individuals for comment.

California Department of Fish and Game

William Critchfield, Pacific SW Forest and Range Experiment Station

Jim Griffin

Natural Diversity Data Base

Chuck Schultz, BLM, Range and Wild Horses

Russ Elam, BLM, Forestry

Greg Yuncevich, BLM, Wildlife

Jackie Gratton, BLM, Lands

Brad Palmer, BLM, Minerals

Stan Bales, BLM, Recreation

APPENDIX 5

MAILING LIST

California Dept. of Fish and Game, Sacramento, CA
Natural Diversity Data Base, Sacramento, CA
William Critchfield, Pacific SW Forest & Range Exp. Station
Jim Griffin
University of California, Berkeley, CA
University of California, Davis, CA
Chico State University, Chico, CA
University of Nevada, Reno, NV
Lassen Community College, Susanville, CA
Butte College, Quincy, CA
Sacramento State University, Sacramento, CA
Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR
Humboldt State University, Arcada, CA
California Academy of Science, San Francisco, CA
University of Oregon, Eugene, OR
Southern Oregon College, Ashland, OR
Lassen Motorcycle Club, Susanville, CA
California 4 Wheel Drive Association, Sacramento, CA
Curt Spalding, Sierra Club, Susanville, CA
Audubon Society, Susanville, CA
Lassen County Planning Commission, Susanville, CA

DR #CA-026-87-07

DECISION RECORD/RATIONALE

Pine Dunes RNA Management Plan

DECISION: Based on the attached Environmental Assessment minimal adverse impacts would result from implementing the proposed action.

Therefore, the proposed action as mitigated is accepted in its entirety.

RATIONALE: The proposed action will result in improved habitat condition for the Research Natural Area and help protect the unique nature of the area.

This decision is consistent with the Cal-Neva Planning Unit MFP of August 1982.

An Environmental Impact Statement is not required for this action.

Mark T. Morse
Area Manager

5-8-87
Date

Mitigation

Statement of Completion

Name of Project: Pine Dunes RNA Management Plan

Project Number: ______________ EA Number: CA-026-87-07

Mitigation Measures:

Shrub removal will be done without mechanized vehicles and during low fire danger.

Shrub removal will be done during times when eagle nest is inactive.

Signature of this form evidences completion of the above mitigation measures for the subject project. Compliance certified by:

______________________________ ______________

Signature Date

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Pine Dunes research natural
area management plan

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